

II. MARKED UP CLAIMS

1. (amended) A composite laminate interlayer for adhering a glass laminate consisting essentially of a sheet of polyethylene terephthalate between two layers of plasticized polyvinyl butyral adhesive layers, wherein both layers of plasticized polyvinyl butyral have a thickness in the range of 0.25 to 2 millimeters (10-80 mils) and wherein at least one of said polyvinyl butyral adhesive layers has a glass transition temperature greater than 35 °C.
6. (amended) A composite laminate interlayer for adhering glass laminates consisting essentially of a layer of polyethylene terephthalate between two layers of plasticized polyvinyl butyral adhesive layers, wherein the polyethylene terephthalate layer has a thickness in the range of 0.125 to 0.254 millimeters (5-10 mils); and each adhesive layer has a thickness in the range of 0.25 to 2 millimeter (10 - 80 mils) and wherein at least one layer of [the] plasticized polyvinyl butyral has a glass transition temperature greater than 35 °C.
8. (twice amended) A composite laminate interlayer for adhering glass laminates comprising a layer of plasticized polyvinyl butyral adhesive having a glass transition temperature greater than 35 °C, at least one layer of polyethylene terephthalate sheet having a thickness greater than 0.075 millimeters (3 mils), at least one elastomeric layer adapted to reducing sound transmission through the glass laminate, and at least one other layer of plasticized polyvinyl butyral adhesive, wherein each plasticized polyvinyl butyral adhesive layer has a thickness in the range of 0.25 to 2 millimeters (10 - 80 mils).
9. (amended) A glass laminate having improved stiffness comprising in order:
 - (a) a first glass sheet,
 - (b) a first layer of plasticized polyvinyl butyral adhesive having a thickness in the range of 0.25 to 2 millimeters (10 - 80 mils),
 - (c) a sheet of polyethylene terephthalate greater than 0.075 millimeters (3 mils) thick,
 - (d) a second layer of plasticized polyvinyl butyral adhesive having a thickness in the range of 0.25 to 2 millimeter (10 - 80 mils), and

(e) a second glass sheet,
wherein said glass laminate exhibits a maximum flexural modulus of greater than about 350 Newtons/centimeter, and
wherein at least one of the layers of plasticized polyvinyl butyral has a glass transition temperature greater than 35 °C.

15. (amended) A glass laminate having improved stiffness consisting essentially of in order:

- (a) a first glass layer,
- (b) a first layer of plasticized polyvinyl butyral adhesive having a thickness in the range of 0.25 to 2 millimeters (10 - 80 mils),
- (c) a layer of polyethylene terephthalate,
- (d) a second layer of plasticized polyvinyl butyral adhesive having a thickness in the range of 0.25 to 2 millimeters (10 - 80 mils),
- (e) a second glass layer,

wherein at least one layer of plasticized polyvinyl butyral adhesive has a glass transition temperature greater than 35 °C

25. (amended) A glass laminate having improved stiffness consisting essentially of in order:

- (a) a first glass sheet,
- (b) a first layer of plasticized polyvinyl butyral adhesive having a thickness in the range of 0.25 to 2 millimeters (10 - 80 mils),
- (c) a first sheet layer of polyethylene terephthalate,
- (d) a layer of sound attenuating elastomer,
- (e) a second sheet of polyethylene terephthalate,
- (f) a second layer of plasticized polyvinyl butyral adhesive having a thickness in the range of 0.25 to 2 millimeters (10 - 80 mils),
- (g) a second glass sheet,

wherein at least one layer of plasticized polyvinyl butyral adhesive has a glass transition temperature greater than 35 °C.

III. ARGUMENTS

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A):

Claims 1-6, 9-12, 14-24 and 26-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over United States Patent No. 5,932,329 to Frost et al. (hereinafter "Frost"). Furthermore, claims 13 and 25 have been rejected under under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Frost in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,796,055 to Benson, Jr. et al. (hereinafter "Benson"). Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Frost in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,227,241 to Chaussade et al. (hereinafter "Chaussade"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and ask the Examiner to withdraw these rejections in view of the following arguments.

The examiner has basically repeated the rejections of independent claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 15 and 25 as set forth in the office action mailed June 24, 2002. The examiner first states in paragraph 3 of the June 24, 2002 office action that "Frost discloses ... [a] first adhesive layer having a thickness of about 50 μ m...." The Examiner states in the same paragraph that "The reference does not teach the exact thickness of the ... first adhesive layer." The Examiner's second statement is incorrect, as Frost expressly discloses that the first adhesive layer has a thickness of *at most* 50 μ m. Applicant has amended each of the remaining independent claims to reflect that both adhesive layers (the PVB layers) have a thickness in the range of 0.25 to 2 millimeters (10 - 80 mils). Because there is no suggestion or motivation in Frost to increase the thickness of the first adhesive layer, Applicant asserts that independent claims 1, 6, 9, and 15 and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over Frost. The Examiner's statement that it is within the skill of the art to optimize thickness is without support in Frost. The first adhesive layer of Frost is used simply to adhere the support film to the glass, and Frost teaches a *maximum* thickness. Thus, any thickness optimization done in view of Frost is limited to optimization between 1 and 50 μ m. Applicants' claimed lower end thickness is well above the *maximum* disclosed thickness in Frost, and thus is patentable over Frost.

Furthermore, independent claims 8 and 25 have also been amended to reflect the minimum thickness of the first adhesive layer, and thus are patentable for the same reasons, even in view of Chaussade and Benson, respectfully.

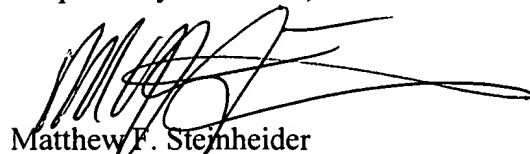
Given the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 15 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that the Examiner indicate the allowance of those claims and all dependent claims in the next paper from the Office.

Applicants hereby request for any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

Applicants' representative hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2508/12598.0128.NPUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion, reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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